

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently found out that BellSouth has filed a petition at the FCC, asking the FCC to stop regulating broadband service. If this petition is granted, this would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs like Sonic.net which I currently subscribe to. As a result, Sonic.net would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise their prices, and mine in the long term.

The more serious concern is that it appears even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for smaller ISP DSL service, and companies like Sonic.net would be unable to sell DSL at all.

BellSouth's claim is that because their own affiliated ISP service (which is similar to SBC/Yahoo here in California) already controls a huge majority of the market, so squashing the rest of the competition isn't likely to impact the market much.

Considering that me as a customer and Sonic.net as an ISP are the folks who might get squashed, I feel the need for all of us, the customers to speak up!

While BellSouth doesn't serve California, Verizon and Qwest have followed up and filed similar requests, and I can expect SBC to follow suit. Although Sonic.net is getting good co-operation from SBC and SBC-ASI as partners in providing DSL service to California consumers, I am concerned that if they were not required to provide access to all ISPs, independent ISPs and Sonic.net and myself could suffer badly.

I would strongly request to consider these facts while deciding this request.

Thanks.